



## The Kentucky Review

---

Volume 15 | Number 1

Article 6

---

2000

# Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 15, no. 1]

Follow this and additional works at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kentucky-review>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

**Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.**

---

### Recommended Citation

(2000) "Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 15, no. 1]," *The Kentucky Review*: Vol. 15 : No. 1 , Article 6.  
Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kentucky-review/vol15/iss1/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Kentucky Libraries at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Kentucky Review by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact [UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu).

## Selected Acquisitions

---

### *Two Early Kentucky Maps*

On 23 February 2000 the Kentucky Geological Survey made a gift to the University Libraries' Department of Special Collections & Archives of two historic maps. This notable transfer came about because Dr. James C. Cobb, State Geologist and Director of the Survey, was alerted to the importance of the maps during a conversation with LFUCG Council member Gloria Martin. Ms. Martin, whose husband, Dr. Charles Martin, is a collector of maps, recognized the Elihu Barker map (Philadelphia, 1793) displayed in the Survey's Rose Street Mining and Minerals building as a rare and important example. Fewer than half a dozen original copies are known to exist. While Barker's key map has been reproduced many times, Ms. Martin recognized the Survey's specimen as one of a very few survivors from the initial edition. Her interest was heightened because she is a collateral descendant of Elihu Barker, the mapmaker.

Dr. Thomas D. Clark, in his *Historic Maps of Kentucky* (University Press of Kentucky, 1979), pp. 68-69, describes the 1793 Philadelphia map as follows: "Elihu Barker's map of Kentucky is the most important one produced in the eighteenth century, John Filson's notwithstanding. It was prepared sometime before 1793, possibly in 1792, and presents the new state at the time of its admission to the Union."

The second map presented to the Libraries was John Russell's *Map of the State of Kentucky With Adjoining Territories* (London, 1794). As is true of the Barker map, Russell's map has often been reproduced. While of great interest as an early cartographic document of the Commonwealth, comparison shows that Russell's map is far less accurate in defining the borders of the state and its interior features than Barker's, who had the advantage of surveying from the actual site. The pair of maps together make for a telling study in eighteenth-century mapmaking techniques.

President Charles Wethington accepted the maps from the Survey on behalf of the University, and Dr. Clark, Kentucky's



Historian Laureate, spoke of the history of Kentucky's maps and the importance of preserving them as a record of the Commonwealth's history.

### *Other Additions to the Collections*

Dr. William Collis recently made a substantial gift of materials relating to the the entertainer and dancer Hal LeRoy. Mrs. Charles Landrum has given the libraries a rare surviving issue of Cassius Clay's controversial abolitionist newspaper, *The True American*. (So provocative was this journal that on 11 August 1845, Clay's printing office was raided by his opponents, and his presses were broken down and shipped out of the state.) Mrs. William (Carolyn Gilson) Gabbert has presented important records and photographs of the work of her father, builder Edwin C. Gilson. Mr. David L. Ringo, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has made a gift of two seventeenth-century editions of Famianus Strada's *De Bello Belgico*, four volumes of Frank Moore's *The Rebellion Record* (1861-1862) that once belonged to Admiral Alfred T. Mahan, a binder of blueprints of locomotive engines produced by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1902, and a 1754 map of the Duchy of Limbourg. The Rev. Canon Dr. Dixon Barr has continued to make very significant additions to the library of genealogical materials that he began transferring to the Department of Special Collections several years ago; Dr. Barr's extensive genealogical interests are not confined to Kentucky, but encompass all of the original colonial states of the Union and the frontier areas of early immigration.

In addition to these valued items, the libraries recently acquired a letter of 1 January 1846, written by James B. Clay to Col. William Townes of Clarksville, Virginia. The letter, the libraries' first acquisition by online auction, relates to a horse named Sarpedon, of which Col. Townes and his brother Edward Townes owned an interest of one third of a three fourths part. In the letter, James Clay states that his father is wintering in New Orleans.

A leaf of early printed regimental orders for the Kentucky Militia was recently placed in the collections. The orders, dated Lexington, 8 May 1811, are addressed by hand to Capt. Robert Todd, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regiment. The document outlines exercises for a drill muster to be held at 10:00 a.m. in front of the hotel on 17 May. The exercises include marching by files, the charge of bayonets, firing by divisions and platoons, the positions of the sword, and the



"method of saluting a general officer by the line, as well as by the officers." Surnames and ranks for the militia officers are given by drill unit.

A broadsheet circular of 1860 promoting a panorama of Mammoth Cave is a recent addition to the collections. The panorama was painted by Orson Squire Fowler under the direction of Luther Emerson and is said to cover many thousand feet of canvas to depict this "great geological wonder of the world." "In connection will be exhibited," notes the broadsheet, "the remarkable curiosities found there by the speaker, some of which are the following: – THE CELEBRATED EYELESS FISH! Found nowhere else in the world. . . . Also the curious kind of rocks formed from water, viz: – Stalactites, Stalagmites, Snow-Balls, Grape Formations, Celery, Cream Candy, Portions of Roses, Selenite Incrustations, Crystals, Mineral Rocks from the Rivers and Seas, Cave Rock, Water from the River Jordan, where the celebrated Eyeless Fish are found, &c."

Several items of African American interest have been placed in the collections. One is an indenture of 20 March 1843 between Daniel B. Price and James C. Hendren for a ten-year-old boy named Thomas, "son of Caty Sutherland, a free woman of color," who is to be apprenticed until the age of twenty-one. Hendren will teach Thomas to be a cook, instructing him "in all the different branches of art, trade, and business." Hendren will provide Thomas "good and sufficient meat, drink, lodging, and apparel suitable for an apprentice and treat him with humanity"; he will teach Thomas "or cause him to be taught to spell & read so as to read the new testament with facility and at the expiration of the said term pay to the said Thomas thirty dollars and a decent new suit of clothes." The libraries have also acquired the World War II photograph album of Corporal John C. Davis, a Kentucky soldier in the 2284th Quartermaster Trucking Company.

Several broadsides have been added to the collections. The earliest of these acquisitions carries the notation "Bradford, Pr. Gazette Office" and is dated 19 January 1817; it promotes the sale of the estate of Robert M'Connell, whose residence was on Main Cross Street (now Broadway) near William Maxwell's old steam mill. Included in the sale are "One excellent 8 day Clock – also, a complete set of Wheelwright's Tools in good order, with Two Lathes – an excellent stock of Timber." Another broadside is an unrecorded Civil War item that is both a Kentucky imprint and a

Confederate imprint, and is one of the few Kentucky printings known to have been made by the provisional government. The broadside was printed at Harrodsburg, 1 October 1862.

Two manuscript letters and several books have been added to the W. Hugh Peal Collection of British and American literature. One of the manuscripts is a letter from William Wordsworth, the leading figure among the early British literary Romantics, regarding a trust fund for a nephew. The letter is written in the hand of Mrs. Wordsworth and signed by Wordsworth. Mr. Peal's collection of Wordsworth letters was considered to have been perhaps the largest in private hands. A second letter acquired for the Peal Collection is from Algernon Swinburne to Oscar Wilde. Wilde sent copies of his first major book, *Poems* (1881), to the major poets of the day, including Swinburne, Robert Browning, and Matthew Arnold. *Punch's* reviewer dismissed *Poems* as "Swinburne and water," although Swinburne himself assured Wilde that he enjoyed his verses. This letter was once in the collection of John B. Stetson, maker of hats and collector of books and letters. Other new items in the Peal Collection include Lady Caroline Lamb's three-volume gothic novel *Glen Arvon* (1816) and Leigh Hunt's *The Descent of Liberty: A Mask* (1815), which bears the blue leather bookplate of composer Jerome Kern.